

Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 SY-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 NIC-01 /141 W

----- 035855

R 071810Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9539

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 0084

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINR, SY, IS, BE

SUBJECT: SYRIAN AMBASSADOR PUBLICIZES ATTEMPTED
BUGGING OF HIS EMBASSY

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. SYRIAN AMBASSADOR ADIB DAOUDY
CONVENED REPORTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS ON JANUARY 4 FOR
SHOW-AND-TELL PRESENTATION ON PENETRATION OF CHANCERY
ON JAN 1-2, BY INTRUDERS WHO WERE INTERRUPTED WHILE
INSTALLING SOPHISTICATED ELECTRONIC EAVESDROPPING SYSTEM.
DAOUDY AVOIDED SPECULATING ON POSSIBLE IDENTITY OF
INTRUDERS, BEYOND SAYING HE COULD NOT BRING HIMSELF
TO BELIEVE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF BELGIUM COULD BE
GUILTY. IN OTHER REMARKS HOWEVER, DAOUDY FOCUSED
ON ISRAELI ACTIVITIES AND ON LONG HISTORY OF HOSTILE
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ACTIVITIES DIRECTED AT SYRIAN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS

IN NEW YORK, GENEVA AND BRUSSELS.

2. ACCORDING TO SYRIAN AMBASSADOR DAOUDY SOMEONE IN BUILDING ADJACENT TO SYRIAN CHANCERY TELEPHONED GENDARMERIE TOWARDS 2 AM JAN 2 TO REPORT LIGHTS AND SUSPICIOUS NOISES IN THE CHANCERY. BELGIAN AUTHORITIES DID NOT ENTER PREMISES UNTIL SYRIAN FIRST SECRETARY ARRIVED. JOINT SEARCH REVEALED INTRUDERS LEFT BEHIND TWO ATTACHE CASES CONTAINING KEYS TO EMBASSY DOORS, BOXES AND CUPBOARDS, FOLDING LADDER AND WALKIE-TALKIE. (SOME BUT NOT ALL PRESS ACCOUNTS ALSO QUOTED SYRIAN AMBASSADOR AS REFERRING TO VAULT ROOM).

3. "BELGIAN SPECIALISTS" ACCORDING TO DAOUDY, THEN MINUTELY EXAMINED HIS OFFICE AND DISCOVERED ELECTRONIC LISTENING DEVICES HIDDEN UNDERNEATH WALL BOARDS. ELEMENTS OF SYSTEM INCLUDED PIECES OF WOOD ABOUT 3 FEET LONG CONTAINING 15 MICROPHONES EACH. PRESS ACCOUNTS DIFFER AS TO WHETHER DAOUDY SAID MICROPHONES WERE ALSO DISCOVERED IN OTHER OFFICES AND SPECIFIED THAT UNINSTALLED ELEMENTS WERE FOUND IN ATTIC.

4. DAOUDY APPARENTLY DID NOT SPECULATE ON HOW LONG LISTENING ELEMENTS MAY HAVE BEEN INSTALLED. HE DID, HOWEVER, MENTION MYSTERIOUS BREAK-IN AT EMBASSY ON SEPTEMBER 24-25, 1972. END UNCLASSIFIED
BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL.

5. COMMENT: EMBASSY OFFICER DISCUSSED BUGGING EPISODE WITH FONMIN DIRECTOR FOR MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS WHO INDICATED MINISTRY INITIALLY INCLINED TO ACCEPT THESIS SYRIAN EMBASSY WAS IN FACT PENETRATED, WITHOUT COMPLETELY EXCLUDING POSSIBILITY OF SYRIAN "PROVOCATION". INVESTIGATION BY POLICE AND SECURITY AUTHORITIES CONTINUES. SYRIAN MOTIVES FOR ARRANGING ELABORATE PRESS COVERAGE PROBABLY INCLUDE DESIRE TO OBLIGE BELGIAN AUTHORITIES TO PROVIDE PERMANENT POLICE GUARDS, A SERVICE NOT PREVIOUSLY EXTENDED TO THE SYRIANS DESPITE EARLIER
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BREAK-IN. END CONFIDENTIAL. STRAUZ-HUPE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED USINT CAIRO.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ESPIONAGE, SECURITY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BRUSSE00084
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740159/aaaacdztel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 APR 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <14 MAY 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SYRIAN AMBASSADOR PUBLICIZES ATTEMPTED BUGGING OF HIS EMBASSY
TAGS: PINS, PINR, SY, IS, BE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005